

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

NO. 10

Middle Loup River Challenge Gearing Up

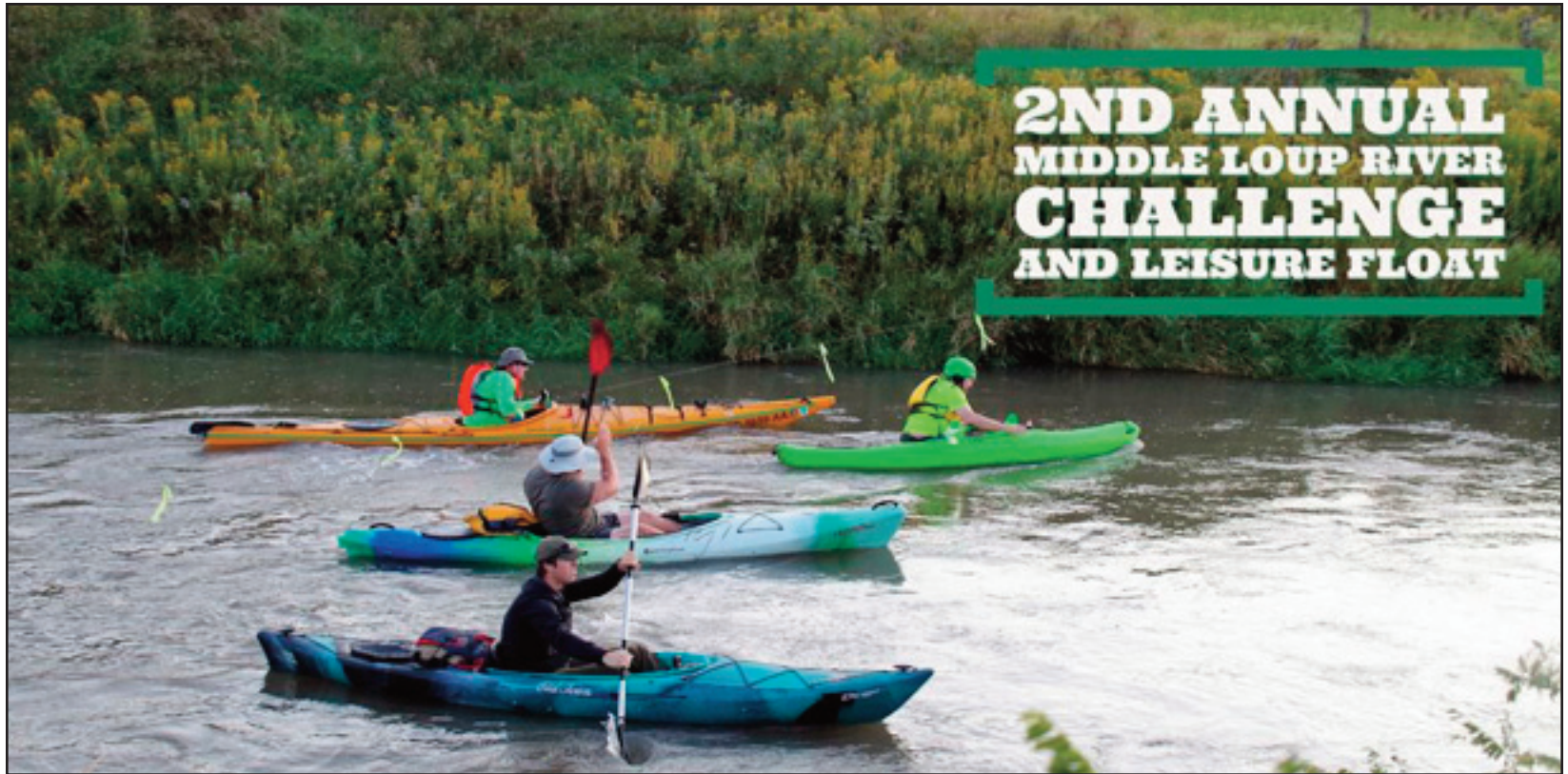
The Middle Loup River Challenge is fast approaching. People can register all the way up to the day before the race, but T-shirts and prizes can only be guaranteed if registrations were made by September 1.

Whether you are a leisure floater or hard core competitor there is a class for you. Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway is excited to see some returning participant registrations and some new contestants.

The race is scheduled for September 12, with a 7:30 a.m. start. Race registration will be taken Friday, September 11, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Sandhills Corral, Thedford. The cost is \$65.00 and includes T-shirt, meal after race and participation token.

There are six categories and the winners will receive a set of coasters, handmade by Linda Lacy of CaLinda's Pot Shop and Art Gallery, Ashby, along with free registration into the 2021 race.

You will also be able to just leisure float. There are two get-out points along the full 28-mile river route.



COURTESY PHOTO

For more information go to <http://www.sandhilljourney.com> and click events. Information may also be found on the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway Facebook page.

Hats off to race sponsors that include Thomas

County Visitor's Committee, CaLinda's Pot Shop & Art Gallery, Sandhills Motel/Glidden Canoe Rentals, Consolidated Telephone, Sandhills Oil, Security First Bank, Arnold Insurance Agency, Western Nebraska Bank,

KBear Radio 92.5, Eagle Communications, 97.5, 105.9, and Sandhills Corral Restaurant.

The official Kayak race logo was designed by Janelle Jennings of 4J Design.

Thomas Co. Fair Rodeo Results

The Thomas County Fair rodeo at Thedford drew a good number of contestants at the event held Friday, July 24, at the Thomas County fairgrounds.

Jared Schultis of Tryon won the barebacks with a score of 66. He took home \$627.27. Mason Ward of North Platte took first in

the bull riding with a score of 74 and a check for \$627.27.

Bailey Brown won the breakaway in a time of 2.7 and took home \$1,445.24.

Dori Hollenbeck won the barrel racing with a time of 16.82 and took home \$964.37.

Lane Day won the calf roping in 8.6 and went

home with \$1,024.48.

Complete rodeo results: Barebacks: 1. Jared Schultis, 66, \$627.27; 2. Ethan Frasier, 63, \$418.18.

Steer Wrestling: 1. Trevor Haake, 4.5, \$864.19; 2. Ben Robinson, 4.6, \$715.19; 3. Hoyt Kraeger, 4.8, \$566.19; 4/5. Reed Kraeger, 5.5, \$542.70 and Kris Rasmussen, 5.3, \$342.70; 6. Jeff Johnston, 5.6, \$149.00.

Breakaway: 1. Bailey Brown, 2.7, \$1,445.24; 2/3/4. Jan Brown, 2.9, Makenzie Wilson, 2.9, and Macy Fuller, 2.9, \$946.88 each; 5. Sydney Adamson, 3.1, \$448.52; 6. Emily Knust, 3.2, \$124.59; 6. Devan McAdow, 3.2, \$124.59.

Saddle Bronc: 1. Brody McAbee, 81, \$591.82; 2. Derek Kenner, 73, \$355.09; 3. Blaine Flack, 71, \$236.75.

Mixed Team Roping (\$/man): 1. Shelby Hinkle and Levi Tyan, 6.9, \$641.16; 2. Shawnee Sherwood and Clay Elkington, 8.5, \$475.34; 3. Lindsey O'Keefe and Levi O'Keefe, 8.5, \$475.34 each; 4. Amber Coleman and Jett Hillman, 8.7, \$309.52; 5/6.

Peyton Mentzer and Toby Mentzer, 9.2 and Lauren Allen and Cooper Brott, 9.2, \$154.76 each.

Team Roping (\$/man): 1. Cooper White and Tucker White, 5.7, \$1,144.70; 2. Clayton VanAken and Levi Tyan, 6.1, \$947.34; 3. Lucas Phillips and Tyrell Reynolds, 6.2, \$749.97; 4. Braden Pirrung and Levi O'Keefe, 7.7, \$552.61; 5. Mark Wray and Grayln Elkins, 7.8, \$355.25; 6. Brady Joseph and Monte Jamison, 8.0, \$197.36.

Barrel Racing: 1. Dori Hollenbeck, 16.82, \$964.37; 2. Sandy Hickey, 17.51, \$798.10; 3-4. Patty Finney, 17.56 and Ginalee Sinner, 17.56, \$465.56 each; 6. D'Ann Gehlsen, 17.5 and Gracey Rodocker, 17.5, \$83.15 each.

Bull Riding: 1. Mason Ward, 74, \$627.27; 2. Thomas Newsom, 72, \$418.18.

Calf Roping: 1. Lane Day, 8.6, \$1,024.48; 2-5-4. Jess Woodward, 8.8, Austin Hurlburt, 8.8, Cole Wilson, 8.8, \$671.21 each; 5. Tate Oftedahl, 9.7, \$317.94; 6. Cody Rieker, 9.8, \$176.63.

Phase 3 & Phase 4 DHM Extended Until September 13

Phase 3 directed health measures (DHMs) that are in effect until Aug. 31 are being extended through Sept. 13. A total of 66 Nebraska counties are currently in Phase 3, including Logan, McPherson and Thomas Counties.

All counties in Phase 3 will move to Phase 4 on Sept. 14 unless hospitalizations dramatically change. Those 66 counties will continue in Phase 4 through Oct. 31.

Phase 4 DHMs move DHM restrictions on restaurants, bars, churches, child care centers, and other businesses to guidance, and allow outdoor venues to operate at full capacity. Arenas and event centers may operate at 75% capacity, though organizers of events of 500 or more people must still receive local health department approval prior to reopening.

Twenty-seven counties are currently in Phase 4, which will be extended through Sept. 30.

Regardless of county of residence, recommendations remain for all Nebraskans to continue social distancing, as well as wear face coverings, wash hands frequently, and stay home when sick to help limit COVID-19 transmission. Anyone with close contact to someone testing positive for COVID-19 is encouraged to quarantine and get tested.

DHHS opened a statewide COVID-19 infor-

mation line to help answer general questions and share the latest information and resources with Nebraskans to help keep them informed. The number is (402) 552-6645 or toll-free at (855) 998-2275; hours of operation are 8 a.m.- 8 p.m. CDT, 7 days a week.

The Nebraska case total, as of 5:45 p.m. CT Friday, August 28, is 33,436, an increase of 1,810 from last Friday. There were 16 new COVID-19-related deaths in the state, for a total of 392. A total of 25,282 Nebraskans diagnosed with COVID-19 have since recovered.

The daily average of positive cases for Aug. 22-28 is 259, compared to 234, 269 and 270 in recent weeks.

West Central Health District reports the following last week. There are 378 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 287 have recovered. There are 88 active cases and three deaths.

There are four cases in Logan and Thomas counties and six in McPherson county.

DHHS continues to stress the importance of masks and take these precautions.

Keep your distance. Wash your hands. Know your risk. Stay home - if you're sick or if you've been exposed to COVID-19.

The West Central risk dial did not move last week and remains at 2.46, which remains within the elevated risk level.

Thomas County Assessor's Office Begins Reappraisals

The Thomas County Assessor's office is beginning a reappraisal of the County. Nebraska State Statute 77-1311.03 states the assessor inspect all real property in the county at least every six years. The last review of the rural buildings was in July 2016. Reappraisal of rural improvements and any new improvements will begin the week of September 14.

Central Plains Valuation, LLC has been hired to complete the project and they will be going site to site to update or confirm measurements and check conditions of the house and outbuildings. They will also be taking new photographs.

Please take the time to speak with them about

any conditions that the Thomas County assessor may not be aware of.

To schedule an appointment, please call the Thomas County assessor at 308-645-2261 prior to September 14. If no one is at home when they are at your site, a door hanger will be left on your door and an exterior review will be completed.

"We ask you cooperate with the staff in this endeavor," said Lorissa Hartman, Thomas County assessor. "The staff will, upon request, provide proof of their appointment and identity."

Anyone having questions or concerns may contact the Thomas County Clerk, Assessor, Lorissa Hartman at 308-645-2261.



Forest Visitors Urged To Use Caution With Fire



Fire officials from the Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands (NNFG) urge visitors to help prevent wildfires. This year the Forest has had a total of 11 fires: four were human caused fires, and seven were lightning caused. Currently Fire Danger in all areas of the Forest are rated "Very High."

The wildland fire support community of the NNFG noted that the Labor Day holiday brings many visitors onto public lands. Forest Service officials ask that all forest visitors be considerate and practice fire prevention: Know before you go on that camping trip; Fire restrictions may be in place; Target shooting and use of power equipment can spark a wildfire; If you do have a campfire, keep it small, never leave it unattended, and put it out completely before you leave; and finally, remember that fireworks and exploding targets are not allowed on national forest system lands, so leave them home.

Tedd Teahon, Acting Forest Fire Management Officer said, "To quote Roy T. Bennett, 'Do what is right, not what is easy nor what is popular.'" Help us keep prevent wildland fires on our Public Lands.

Be sure to have maps with you to ensure you are on public land. Our Motor Vehicle Use Maps are a free resource that can help. They are available at district offices or online or through the AVENZA app. Learn more about maps at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/nebraska/maps-pubs>. Forest Visitor Maps are available online for a fee through the USGS Store and electronically through the Avenza Maps mobile app for a fee. For additional information, visit us online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/nebraska/home>; on Twitter @USFSNebraska or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaForestsGrasslands/>.